This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1.   (Withdrawn) A storage area, comprising:

a plurality of extensible markup language (XML) instances wherein at least two instances of said plurality of XML instances are stored in a storage location, and wherein said at least two instances do not conform to the same XML schema, and wherein further said storage location is designated for storing XML according to an object that represents two or more XML schema namespaces.

2.   (Withdrawn) The storage area of claim 1, wherein said storage location of the storage area is typed with said object containing two or more XML schema namespaces.

3.   (Withdrawn) The storage area of claim 1, wherein said object contains two or more XML schema namespaces and is used to validate at least one of the XML instances in said storage location.

4.   (Withdrawn) The storage area of claim 1, wherein said storage area is a relational database, and said storage location is a column.

5.   (Withdrawn) The storage area of claim 1, wherein said object containing two or more XML schema namespaces is used in conjunction with an import function which modifies said object containing two or more XML schema namespaces so that it refers to schema components in other XML schema namespaces.

6.   (Withdrawn) The storage area of claim 1, wherein said object containing two or more XML schema namespaces is used in conjunction with an include function which allows assembly of schema components for a single namespace from several schema documents.

7.   (Withdrawn) The storage area of claim 1, wherein said object containing two or more XML schema namespaces is used in conjunction with an alter function which adds schema components to XML schema namespaces within said object containing two or more XML schema namespaces.

8.   (Original) A data structure for containing Extensible Markup Language (XML) schema namespaces embodied in at least one computer readable medium, comprising:

a container for XML schema namespaces; and

at least two XML schema namespace universal resource identifiers (URIs);

whereby a storage location that is typed with said data structure for containing XML schema namespaces allows XML instances to be stored in the storage location only if validated according to an XML schema namespace identified by one of said at least two XML schema namespace URIs.

9.   (Original) The data structure of claim 8, wherein said storage location is a column of a database.

10.   (Original) The data structure of claim 8, wherein said container contains two or more XML schema namespaces, and said container is used in conjunction with an import function which modifies said container containing two or more XML schema namespaces so that it refers to schema components in other XML schema namespaces.

11.   (Original) The data structure of claim 8, wherein said container contains two or more XML schema namespaces, and said container is used in conjunction with an include function which allows assembly of schema components for a single namespace from several schema documents.

12.   (Original) The data structure of claim 8, wherein said container containing two or more XML schema namespaces is used in conjunction with an alter function which adds schema components to XML schema namespaces within said container containing two or more XML schema namespaces.

13.   (Withdrawn) A method of storing extensible markup language (XML) instances, comprising:

typing a storage location with a container for XML schema namespaces that contains a plurality of XML schema namespaces;

storing at least one XML instance in said storage location; and

validating said at least one XML instance against at least one schema represented by said container for XML schema namespaces.

14.   (Withdrawn) The method of claim 13, wherein said storage location is a column of a relational database.

15.   (Withdrawn) The method of claim 13, further including creating said container for XML schema namespaces by specifying the name of said container and said plurality of XML schema namespaces.

16.   (Withdrawn) The method of claim 13, wherein said container for XML schema namespaces is used in conjunction with an import function, modifying said container so that the container refers to schema components in other XML schema namespaces.

17.   (Withdrawn) The method of claim 13, wherein said container for XML schema namespaces is used in conjunction with an include function, allowing assembly of schema components for a single namespace from several schema documents.

18.   (Withdrawn) The method of claim 13, wherein said container for XML schema namespaces is used in conjunction with an alter function, adding schema components to XML schema namespaces within said container for XML schema namespaces.

19.   (Withdrawn) The method of claim 13, further comprising locating a schema that is referred to by an XML schema namespace in the container for XML schema namespaces.

20.   (Original) A method of validating Extensible Markup Language (XML) instances comprising:
        creating a container for XML schema namespaces;
        associating at least one XML schema namespace with said container;
        typing a column of a relational database with said container; and
        in connection with storing an XML instance in said column, ensuring that the XML instance conforms to at least one schema represented by said container.

21.   (Original) The method of claim 20, wherein said container for XML schema namespaces is used in conjunction with a function which modifies said container so that the container refers to schema components in other XML schema namespaces.

22.   (Original) The method of claim 20, wherein said container for XML schema namespaces is used in conjunction with a function which allows assembly of schema components for a single namespace from several schema documents.

23.   (Original) The method of claim 20, wherein said container for XML schema namespaces is used in conjunction with a function which adds schema components to XML schema namespaces within said container for XML schema namespaces.

24.   (Original) The method of claim 20, further comprising locating a schema that is referred to by an XML schema namespace in the container for XML schema namespaces.

25.   (Original) A computer readable medium comprising computer readable modules having computer executable instructions for interfacing with a storage location for storing XML instances in a computing system, the modules comprising:

          a first set of computer readable instructions for collecting one or more XML schema namespaces in a container for XML schema namespaces; and

          a second set of computer readable instructions for typing said storage location with said container.

26.   (Original) The computer readable medium according to claim 25, the modules further comprising:

          a third set of computer readable instructions for validating XML instances according to XML schema namespaces represented by said container.

27.   (Original) The computer readable medium of claim 25, further comprising a fourth set of computer readable instructions for modifying said container so that said container refers to schema components in other XML schema namespaces.

28.   (Original) The computer readable medium of claim 25, further comprising a fourth set of computer readable instructions that allows assembly of schema components for a single namespace from several schema documents.

29.   (Original) The computer readable medium of claim 25, further comprising a fourth set of computer readable instructions that adds schema components to XML schema namespaces within at least one of said one or more containers for XML schema namespaces.

30.   (Original) The method of claim 25, further comprising a fourth set of computer readable instructions that locate a schema that is referred to by an XML schema namespace in the container for XML schema namespaces.

31.   (Original) A computer readable medium comprising computer executable instructions, the instructions comprising:

> means for collecting XML schema namespaces; and
> means for typing a storage area with a collection of a plurality of XML schema namespaces.

32.   (Original) The computer readable medium according to claim 31, further comprising:

> means for validating at least one XML instance.

33.   (Original) The computer readable medium of claim 31, wherein said means for collecting XML schema namespaces includes means for generating a container for XML schema namespaces.

34.   (Original) The computer readable medium of claim 33, further including means for modifying said container so that said container refers to schema components in other XML schema namespaces.

35.   (Original) The computer readable medium of claim 31, further including means for allowing assembly of schema components for a single namespace from several schema documents.

36.   (Original) The computer readable medium of claim 33, further including

means for adding schema components to XML schema namespaces within said container.